



# CITIZENS SUMMARY

## Findings in the audit of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Environmental Quality - Hazardous Waste Program

### Hazardous Waste Program Investigations

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Hazardous Waste Program has not completed investigations of potential environmental concerns at 23 identified or potential former manufactured gas plants (FMGP). Based on past investigations, it appears these sites have a high probability of hazardous waste contamination. State law requires the DNR to investigate all known or suspected abandoned or uncontrolled hazardous waste sites.

The DNR has not yet completed investigations of potential environmental concerns at 111 former lead smelters and 3,300 former mining waste sites. While these sites are generally exempted from being regulated as a hazardous waste site under state law, the DNR is required to conduct investigations involving releases or potential releases of hazardous substances under its cooperative agreements with the EPA. Lead is recognized as a hazardous material and can pose a threat to public health and the environment.

### Brownfield Remediation Tax Credit Program

In April 2014, the Office of State Auditor issued Report No. 2014-023, *Brownfield Remediation Tax Credit Program*, which included findings directed to the DNR, Hazardous Waste Program. For example, the audit questioned several decisions related to the Carondelet Coke Project that resulted in state taxpayers primarily funding remediation costs; and noted a lack of communication between the Department of Economic Development and the DNR which allowed tax credits to be issued for a project that was not properly remediated.

In the areas audited, the overall performance of this entity was **Fair**.\*

\*The rating(s) cover only audited areas and do not reflect an opinion on the overall operation of the entity. Within that context, the rating scale indicates the following:

- Excellent:** The audit results indicate this entity is very well managed. The report contains no findings. In addition, if applicable, prior recommendations have been implemented.
- Good:** The audit results indicate this entity is well managed. The report contains few findings, and the entity has indicated most or all recommendations have already been, or will be, implemented. In addition, if applicable, many of the prior recommendations have been implemented.
- Fair:** The audit results indicate this entity needs to improve operations in several areas. The report contains several findings, or one or more findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated several recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, several prior recommendations have not been implemented.
- Poor:** The audit results indicate this entity needs to significantly improve operations. The report contains numerous findings that require management's immediate attention, and/or the entity has indicated most recommendations will not be implemented. In addition, if applicable, most prior recommendations have not been implemented.